

21397

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
DEC 15 2006

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3 and 4. Claims 2 and 5 have been amended for consistency with the amendment of claim 1. As such, claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled and claims 1, 2, and 5-7 are presently pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 5-7 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Jarrell et al. in view of Stautner. Given that Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3 and 4 and the Examiner has indicated that claims 3 and 4 contain allowable subject matter, Applicants submit that such rejection is hereby rendered moot.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed but is not believed to render the presently pending claims unpatentable.

Applicants are also aware that this response is being made in the second month. Applicants have therefore submitted with this response a petition to extend the time to answer together with direction to charge the assignee's deposit account with the requisite fee.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth above, Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all pending claims. Since the claims are in condition for allowance, prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Rosenblum
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 29,341

Praxair, Inc.
39 Old Ridgebury Road
Danbury, CT 06810-5113
Phone: (203) 837-2178

Docket No. 21397

Date: December 15, 2006

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8200 on 12-15-06. (Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate.

Christina Mommens
Signature: 